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# Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /068 W
---------- 129308
O R 141055Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8304
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR GR
SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH

REF ATHENS 2825

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RELEASED CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENT, EVIDENTLY CALCULATED TO BLUNT OR TONE DOWN DOMESTIC CRITICISM IN GREECE, ON QUESTION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GREECE MENTIONED IN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. OPPOSITION LEADERS GEORGE MAVROS (CU/NF) AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU (PASOK) ALSO ISSUED STATEMENTS. NEWS TREATMEN AND EDITORIALS IN WEEKEND PRESS CONTINUED TO BE CRITICAL (REFTEL), ESPECIALLY OF PRESIDENT'S REFERENCES TO TURKEY AND TURKISH MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND OF "LINKAGE" WITH U.S. AID TO GREECE. END SUMMARY.

2. CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT, WHICH WAS FRONTPAGED ON ATHENS NEWSPAPERS APRIL 13 READS AS FOLLOWS (EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION): "THE GREEK GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE PROPOSAL OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO GRANT AID TO GREECE. (THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO) INASMUCH AS THIS INTENTION CORRESPONDS TO
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THE FEELINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. HOWEVER, SINCE

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THIS NEWS CAUSED VARIOUS COMMENTS, I AM OBLIGED TO STATE THAT
THE GRANTING OF AID TO GREECE MUST NOT BE CONNECTED, AS
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT KNOWS, WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S
POSITIONS ON THE OPEN SUBJECTS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY."

3. STATEMENTS ISSUED BY GEORGE MAVROS AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU
CRITICIZED LINKAGE OF U.S. AID TO GREECE WITH RESUMPTION OF
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. MAVROS REMARKED THAT WHILE
RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY IS AN INERNAL MATTER
OF USG, QUESTION ARISES OF HOW PRESIDENT FORD COULD MORALLY
JUSTIFY THIS RESUMPTION WHEN THESE SUPPLIES WERE USED TO
ABROGATE FREEDOM, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF
CYPRUS. "THE VERY FACT THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS DISCUSSING A
PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE RESUMBLES
A BONE THROWN TO A STRAY DOG...THE GREEK PEOPLE WILL NEVER
ACCEPT A NATIONAL MULILIATION AS PRESIDENT FORD SEEMS TO BE
IMPLYING." MAVROS CONCLUDED THAT WHAT USG SHOULD DO IS TO
ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS.

4. PAPANDREOU, IN CHARACTERISTIC STYLE, REFERRED TO DETERIORATING
POSITIONS OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND
MIDDLE EAST WHICH PROMPT USG TO TRANSFORM TURKEY INTO POWERFUL
FORCE AS AN "ADVANCED SENTRY-POST OF PENTAGON IN EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN." PAPANDREOU ADDED THAT THE SUSPICIOUS PROPOSAL
FOR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO GREECE WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE
TO GREEK PEOPLE BECAUSE IT IS ONLY A PRETEXT FOR STRENGTHENING
TURKEY MILITARILY AND BECAUSE THE GRANTING OF AID TO GREECE AT
THE SAME TIME WOULD BE ANOTHER TENTACLE TO CONTROL GREECE'S
ARMED FORCES, HER AIR SPACE, AND TERRITORIAL WATERS.

5. MEDIA TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH CONTINUED CRITICAL
IN WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS. NEWS ACCOUNTS RAN CAPTIONS EMPHASIZING
PRO-TURKISH POSITION OF USG AND "TRICKERY" BEHIND PRESIDENT
FORD'S AID PROPOSAL. "USA POLICY IS CLEARLY TURKOFILE --THEY
MAKE FUN OF US WITH FORD'S APPEAL FOR AID TO GREECE" (ATHENAIKI,
PRO-PASOK); "FORD PROPOSAL FOR AID TO GREECE A DECEITFUL
TRICK" (PRO-GOG VRADYNI); "AID TO GREECE IS BRIBERY--
FORD'S SPEECH WAS DISAPPOINTING" (TA NEA); "PROUD REPLY BY
CARAMANLIS TO 'OFFER' OF AMERICAN PRESIDENT--WE DO NOT
ACCEPT AMERICAN AID UNDER CONDITIONS" (KATHIMERINI--
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CONSERVATIVE).

6. EDITORIAL BY KATHIMERINI DISCOUNTED ARGUMENTS
THAT AID TO TURKEY COULD SERVE TO INDUCE TURKEY TOWARD CYPRUS
SETTLEMENT OR THAT RESUMTION OF ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY INCREASED
U.S. LEVERAGE IN CONTEXT OF CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. COMMUNIST
PRESS PREDICTABLY REFERRED TO PROPOSAL OF ECONOMIC AND
MILITARY AID TO GREECE AS BLACKMAIL AND AS A TRAP.

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TO VIMA CARRIED COMMENT FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT
TO EFFECT THAT VARIOUS U.S. CONGRESSMEN SHOWED UNDERSTANDING
OVER COLD RECEPTION OF FORD SPEECH IN ATHENS. GREEK NEWSPAPERS
ALSO CITED FOREIGN PRESS REPORTAGE INCLUDING NEW YORK TIMES
EDITORIAL "FORD ON TURKIEH ARMS" WHICH SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS
NEWS AGENCY REPUBLISHED, AND EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN UNDER TITLE
"GREEK-AMERICAN PRESSURES" WHICH WAS EXCERPTED IN TO VIAM.
KUBISCH

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# Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, GR, (FORD, GERALD R)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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